

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



East Foundation CEO Neal Wilkins, Janell Kleberg recognized at Harvey Weil Dinner

San Antonio, TX – April 20, 2021 – The Rotary Club of Corpus Christi honored Janell Kleberg as Conservationist of the Year and Neal Wilkins as Professional Conservationist of the Year during the Harvey Weil Sportsman Conservationist Award Dinner on Saturday, April 17th, in Sinton. The event raised money for an endowment funding grants that support research and education related to the conservation of natural resources.

Photographer, rancher and conservationist Janell Kleberg is dedicated to serving her community and native Texas wildlife. Kleberg has been a central part of the King Ranch’s conservation efforts and has been highly engaged in efforts with the City of Kingsville, Texas Wildlife Association, the Dolph and Janey Briscoe Museum and the Upland Game Board of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Neal Wilkins is President and CEO of the East Foundation, where he is responsible for leading its mission of promoting land stewardship through ranching, science, and education. He has more than 30 years of experience in research and conservation across the private lands of Texas, Tennessee, Florida, Washington, New Zealand and Oregon. Wilkins’ primary focus has been habitat management and the conservation of land, water and wildlife resources on native rangelands and commercial forestland. His work integrates science, management, policy and economics.

“The definition of good fortune is to wake up every day to a team of people devoted to a mission larger than themselves,” said Wilkins. “I am honored to have a chance to work closely with such dedicated people. Being recognized as the Harvey Weil Professional Conservationist of the Year is humbling, and it is a reflection of our team’s commitment to land stewardship and wildlife conservation.”

The mission of the Harvey Weil Sportsman Conservationist Award is to support research and education in the conservation of natural resources. Since 1998, more than \$1,000,000 in grant funds have been awarded. Funds are awarded to projects involving marine and wildlife species and their habitats and to issues advocating recreational hunting and fishing.

“The Harvey Weil Steering Committee was honored to present our Professional Conservationist Award of 2021 to Dr. Neal Wilkins,” said Richard Leshin, event co-chair. “Dr. Wilkins has devoted decades of service to preserving lands and waters. His professional passion will ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy sportsmanship.”

About the East Foundation

The East Foundation promotes the advancement of land stewardship through ranching, science, and education. We manage over 217,000 acres of native South Texas rangeland, operated as six separate ranches in Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr, and Willacy counties. The lands were bestowed to the Foundation through the generous gift of the East family in 2007. To honor their legacy, we uphold their vision and values that were established more than a century ago.

For more information on our work, visit www.eastfoundation.net.

Media Contact:

James Powell, Director of Communications

210-430-4447

jpowell@eastfoundation.net

###